SCREECH

CHAPTER 19:
STRAYING AND ENLIGHTENMENT
(PART 2)

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源光庵

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YOU THINK ENSHO IS HERE, HOLMES-SAN?

GENKO-AN TEMPLE...

I DO.

HEY, I'VE SEEN THESE ON TV!

I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THESE WINDOWS BEFORE...

THEY'RE CALLED...

"THE WINDOW OF STRAYING" AND "THE WINDOW OF ENLIGHTEN-MENT."

FWIP

I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE ANYONE WAS THERE!

Is that... Ensho?

THESE WINDOWS EACH HAVE A SPECIAL MEANIN'.

THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WINDOW OF STRAYIN' REPRESENT MAN'S FOUR INESCAPABLE AFFLICTIONS:

LIFE, AGE, SICKNESS, AN' DEATH.

THE CIRCLE OF THE WINDOW OF ENLIGHTENMENT REPRESENTS THE ZEN MINDSET AND THE GREATER UNIVERSE.

PRETTY BIG CONCEPTS FOR A COUPLE OF WINDOWS, IF YA ASK ME.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT ME HERE.

GLAD YA COULD MAKE IT, HOLMES-HAN.

OH?

WAS IT THAT EASY FOR THE HOLMES OF TERAMACHI SANJO TO FIND HIS WAY HERE?

THE CLUES WERE RATHER OBVIOUS.

IT IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT THE WINDOW OF STRAYING TO MIND.

A RECTAN-GULAR PAINTING WITH SUCH A NAME...

THE TITLE OF WHICH WAS LATER REVISED TO *STRAYED SHEEP.*

THE PAINTING YOU SELECTED WAS HUNT'S *OUR ENGLISH COASTS,*

SO THE MIRROR, WHICH REFLECTS THE SELF, IS A REPRESENTATION OF ENLIGHTEN-MENT.

ENLIGHTEN-MENT IN ZEN BUDDHISM...

...REFERS TO THE REALIZATION OF THE BUDDHA-NATURE WITHIN ONESELF.

AND THIS ROUND MIRROR YOU GAVE ME...

I see...

SO THE ROUND MIRROR REPRESENTS THE WINDOW OF ENLIGHTEN-MENT...

THAT'S REAL IMPRESSIVE.

I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN THE COMPLI-MENT.

BUT JUST WHAT TIPPED YA OFF?

IT WAS...

I MIGHT AS WELL ASK, HOLMES-HAN.

YOU BEIN' HERE MEANS YOU SAW THROUGH MY FORGERY...

THE LIGHT.

ARE YOU QUITE SATISFIED NOW?

I SEE.

IT AIN'T EASY FOR A MAN LIVIN' IN THE SHADOWS TO DEPICT LIGHT, I GUESS.

SNAP

IT'S OFTEN HOW THEY COME TO BE FOUND OUT...

SO I NEVER COULD FIGURE OUT WHY ANYONE WOULD DO THAT.

THEY SAY THAT IN THE PROCESS OF COUNTER-FEITIN', IN TIME, COUNTER-FEITERS COME TO LEAVE THEIR OWN MARK ON THEIR WORK.

I WAS RAISED BY MY FATHER IN AMAGA-SAKI, YA SEE.

HE WAS A TALENTED PAINTER, BUT HIS ALCOHOLISM KEPT HIM FROM WORKIN' ALL THE TIME.

WHEN HE DID GET JOBS, HE WAS ALWAYS BLOWIN' THE DEAD-LINES...

I COULDN'T STAND IT, SO I LEARNED HOW TO PAINT LIKE HIM.

I WAS A KID, OF COURSE, SO I WAS JUST HAPPY FOR THE ATTENTION.

HE'D ONLY EVER TREATED ME AS A NUI-SANCE, BUT HE WAS DELIGHTED WHEN HE SAW MY WORK.

AN' I STARTED DOIN' FORGERIES ON HIS REQUEST.

HE'D TELL ME THEY WERE PERFECT COPIES...

THAT PRAISE WAS MY REASON FOR DOIN' WHAT I DID.

MY OLD MAN DRANK HIMSELF TO DEATH IN TIME.

I KEPT UP THE COUNTERFEITIN' BY FORCE OF HABIT, BUT...

IT JUST GOT BORIN' AFTER A WHILE.

So from the very beginning, for Ensho...

Painting was forgery.

BUT THAT MEANS HOLMES-SAN WAS RIGHT...

ONLY 'CAUSE I MET YOU.

AND SO YOU JOINED THE PRIEST-HOOD...

BUT FELL SHORT OF ENLIGHTEN-MENT.

YA SAW THROUGH WORKS OF MINE THAT NO ONE EVER HAD BEFORE.

AN' IT MADE ME REALIZE WHY COUNTER-FEITERS LEAVE THEIR MARK.

IT WAS LIKE SOMEONE HAD FINALLY SEEN ME IN THE SHADOWS...

WHEN I FOUND OUT, IT SET MY HEART RACIN'.

BUT...

SEEIN' YOUR FACE NOW, I HAVE MY ANSWER.

I WASN'T SURE.

WHETHER I WAS HOPIN' YOU'D SHOW UP TODAY OR NOT...

YOU ACT PRIM AND PROPER TO CHARM PEOPLE, BUT YOUR HEART'S AS BLACK AS THEY COME.

JUST LIKE THIS CITY...

I REALLY DON'T THINK I LIKE YA.

AND I CAN'T STAND KYOTO.

WHY, THANK YA.

CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER HONOR THAN BEIN' COMPARED TO KYOTO.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BEING HUMILIAT-ED,

SO I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D SIMPLY GIVE UP ON THE IDEA?

THERE IT IS, THAT DARK-NESS...

I'D SO LOVE TO HUMILIATE YOU. IN FACT, I THINK I'LL DO JUST THAT.

THEN, FOR YOUR SAKE...

I HOPE YOU SEE THROUGH MY NEXT TRICK.

RIGHT?

YOU AGREE, DON'T YA?

WHAT?

AOI-
SAN!

THA-THUMP

THA-THUMP

THA-THUMP

Y-
YES...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?!

HEY, YOU REALLY COULD'VE HURT SOME-ONE!

WAIT...

HE REALLY IS LIKE A NINJA.

IT'S MOST ANNOY-ING.

IF NOTHING ELSE, HE CERTAINLY GETS UNDER MY SKIN...

HE'S GONE...

VICTORY

WHAT IS IT?

YES.

I SUPPOSE IT'S HIS WAY OF SAYING HE WON THIS ROUND.

THAT'S THE FAN ENSHO TOOK FROM YOU AT NANZENJI, RIGHT?

NAH...

BUT IT WAS YOUR VICTORY, HOLMES-SAN!

YOU SAW THROUGH HIS COUN-TERFEIT!

IF I HADN'T KNOWN THAT, I WOULDN'T'VE CAUGHT ON.

THE ONLY REASON I SAW THROUGH IT...

...WAS 'CAUSE I KNEW THE ORIGINAL'S FAMOUS FOR ITS NATURAL DEPICTION OF LIGHT.

BUT I HADN'T FIGURED IT OUT MYSELF.

I KNEW THE ANSWER,

THAT'S WHY HE LOOKED SO TRIUMPHANT WHEN I SAID THE LIGHT WAS THE GIVEAWAY.

AN' HE'S RIGHT.

I can tell how upset Holmes-san is...

I WISH I KNEW WHAT TO SAY AT TIMES LIKE THESE.

IN THAT CASE...

NO...

CONSOLATION ISN'T WHAT HE NEEDS RIGHT NOW.

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER"?

"DON'T WORRY; YOU STILL GOT THE RIGHT ANSWER"?

THEN... THEN SEE THROUGH HIM NEXT TIME!

I CAN SAY IT NOW...

NEXT TIME, DON'T LOSE TO HIM!

...WITH ALL OF MY HEART.

INDEED.

NEXT TIME, I WILL TRULY CRUSH HIM.

AN EXCELLENT IDEA.

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GET SOMETHING GOOD TO EAT AND HEAD HOME?

EXCUSE ME. WE'LL BE CLOSING SOON.

THE WINDOW OF STRAYING AND THE WINDOW OF ENLIGHTEN-MENT...

...BECAUSE HE TOO FEELS ASTRAY.

MAYBE ENSHO CHOSE THIS PLACE...

...that simple victory or defeat won't bring him?

Or is he searching for some other answer...

...once this battle of counter-feits and wits is over?

Will he be satisfied with himself...

OH, I WAS JUST THINKING...

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

YOUR HARDLINE ENCOURAGE-MENT...

...HAS INSPIRED ME TO FIGHT ON.

THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER, AOI-SAN.

...UNTIL I CAN SEE THROUGH ANY COUNTERFEIT, NOT JUST ENSHO'S.

I'M GOING TO IMPROVE...

WHSH

THAT'S GREAT!

I'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU!

AOI-SAN...

CLASP

I...

HEY! YOU GUYS COMING OR WHAT?

WHAT'S THE HOLD UP?

HELLOOO!

...

R-RIGHT...

I'M SORRY.

I HOPE WE'LL GET A CHANCE TO TALK LATER.

WE'RE SHUTTING THE GATES!

YES, YES! WE'RE COMING!

MY HAND FEELS WARM WHERE HE HELD IT.

I WONDER WHAT HOLMES-SAN WAS ABOUT TO SAY...

CHAPTER 19
END